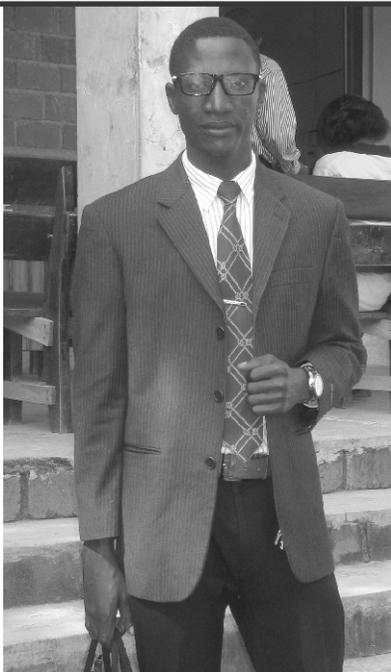


## VILLAGE EVANGELISM

This year I made my third trip to Nigeria, and this was the first time I have had the privilege of participating in village evangelism. This opportunity made it the most rewarding of all the trips I have made. Dr. Aguh, a brother in Gboko, and I traveled to the village of Lessel in Benue State (about five hours south of Jos via automobile) on the Saturday after the Preacher's Retreat concluded. The parents of one of our graduates live in this village, and they were very gracious hosts. The village was in a rather remote area where a lot of agricultural activity was evident. Orange groves, maze, beans and rice were all being grown in that particular area. We arrived late Saturday afternoon. The village had no electricity, but a generator had been secured for the event along with a P.A. system. It took a while to get things organized, but even before we arrived, a crowd had begun to assemble. Since this was a new experience for me, I did not know exactly what to expect. As it turned out, the activities got underway a little before eight p.m. and continued until almost midnight. I spoke first (through a translator into the Tiv language) on the subject, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" and that was followed by a question and answer session. I was impressed by the receptiveness of the audience and they asked questions that made it very clear they had understood the message. When a Bible answer was given, they showed a complete willingness to accept that information. Some of their questions indicated that they had been exposed to things commonly taught in the religious world that might be classified the 'doctrines of men' rather than what the Scriptures teach. Dr. Aguh spoke next and he addressed the distinction between the Old and New Testaments. The third speaker was the brother from Gboko, and since he addressed the audience in their native Tiv language, I can't report his subject. It was almost midnight when the third speaker finished, but that was not the end of the activity. The loud speaker continued throughout the night, at times recorded reading of the Word of God was broadcast, and at other times it was acappella music that came over the loud speaker. We spent the night in the village and conducted the first worship service in the village the next morning. Dr. Aguh spoke on the five items of worship and I was asked to give the 'words of encouragement.' At the conclusion of the worship, nine souls responded (eight men and one lady) and we walked about ½ mile to a stream where they were baptized into Christ for the remission of their sins. Our graduate, whose parents live in that village, stayed over to do follow-up teaching, and the following weekend three additional souls were obedient. I did learn a great deal of information about village life and got the opportunity to eat true African food. It was thrilling to be a part of planting a new congregation of the Lord's church and this made the importance of the work of training preachers so very evident to me. It is my pray that I will have other such opportunities in the future.

*~Randy Baker*



### Introducing Peter S. Makundu

Peter was born May 19, 1993, in Koindu Village, in the West African country of Sierra Leone. His family are members of the Kissi Tribe. Peter's mother died of Ebola in 2014, so Peter left the village and traveled to Liberia where he was quarantined by the authorities for a year. After being tested and found to be free of this dreaded virus Peter started attending services with the Church of Christ in Monrovia. There Peter met Brother Frances Musa who is from Peter's village. He told Peter about the school in Jos, Nigeria, and then left Liberia to become a missionary to the city of Conakry, the capital of the country of Guinea. Peter worked to save enough money to travel to Jos, where he entered classes in August of this year. He is our first student from Sierra Leone.

## HEROES OF THE PAST

The Nigerian Civil War, popularly known all over the world as the "**Biafran War**", was fought from July 2, 1967, to January 15, 1970. All the foreign missionaries had left the country and by 1969 an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 people were dying daily in Biafra from starvation as a result of the naval blockade. The Jim Massey and Reese Bryant families had returned to the U.S., having served in Nigeria as missionaries in Biafra, but they were following the reports on the war. Reese and Patty Bryant had 4 children while Jim and Joyce Massey had 3 children. These men decided to try to help our brethren in the war to stay alive. They flew in a C130 filled with 65 drums of gasoline from Sao Tome, an island near the coast of Nigeria, into Imo land in Southeastern Nigeria. Because of the Russian backed Northern Nigerians, who controlled the air, their plane had to land on a strip of deserted road lit by torches, which could only be lit for one minute! Reese and Jim had \$7,500 each in five dollars bills. They planned to pass these out to the members of the Churches of Christ who were starving because of the war. Reese said he could still remember the looks on all those black faces when they saw the two white American preachers. Many said in wonder, "You being here in our country says that the Americans have not forgotten us." They stayed two weeks handing out the money and encouraging the brethren, then flew out on a C130 plane with four engines. (Only two engines worked).

Jim Massey has gone on to be with our Father, while his wife Joyce, and the Bryant family are living in Florida. There are now over 10,000 congregations of the Church of Christ in Southern Nigeria. May our Lord reward these two families for the faithfulness to spreading the gospel in Africa. See more at: <http://www.blackpast.org/gah/nigerian-civil-war-1967-1970#sthash.IKHw5D3H.dpuf>

## ACADEMIC PROGRESS AT SBS

The School of Biblical Studies, Jos, continues its four programs (BA CRS, BA Ministry, Diploma in Ministry, and Certificate in Ministry), even though there are challenges associated with their growth and development. We are looking forward to receiving an inspection team soon from the National University Commission. That will be a crucial inspection visit that will register our name in the Joint Admission Matriculation Board brochure. There are certain things that are prerequisites to the success of this visit: The library with modern books and e-library, and dormitory accommodation for all our students. Currently we have a limited accommodation facility for the men. With the current drive for women's education and equality in Nigeria, we may encounter a set-back, if the female hostel is not in place, especially if the components of the inspection team includes women. Keep us in prayers. Dr. Tom Udoh Ekot, Dean of Academic Studies

## National Preachers/Church Leaders Workshop

Each year we host an annual workshop for preachers and church leaders on our campus at the School of Biblical Studies, Jos. This is always an excellent opportunity for gospel preachers to be an encouragement to one another and to learn from one another. This year the workshop attracted over 500 attendees. The theme of the workshop was "Church Cooperation in Electronic Evangelism." It was very encouraging to hear native preachers addressing the challenge of cooperating and still respecting the Biblical doctrine regarding the autonomy of the local church. They did an excellent job discussing the role of the local congregation in financing possible radio and television efforts to further spread the gospel in Nigeria. There was excitement about the possible use of the latest "electronic gadgets" for the spread of the "good news."

I was assigned the topics of "The Christian's Commitment to Evangelism" and "Congregational Commitment to Evangelism" to be developed in the morning devotional to get the day started. Although the topics naturally overlap, the priority of being evangelistic applies to both the individual and the local congregation. If we are to truly restore New Testament Christianity, we will follow the example of those in the first century who, when scattered by persecution, went about preaching the word, Acts 8:4. Instead of allowing persecution to stop the spread of Christianity, it actually became a tool for its spread. The messages delivered by native evangelists indicated that our Nigerian brethren are optimistic about the future and the impact the gospel can have on their culture.

*~Randy Baker*